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Message Text

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14
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-06 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAL-01 SAJ-01 FRB-03 STR-04 LAB-04 SIL-01
/134 W
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R 101723Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2546
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2847
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION USNATO
SHAPE POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 12137

NATO CONFIDENTIAL FOR NATO ADDEE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EC, PLOS, EFIS
SUBJECT: EC OPTIONS FOR HANDLING SOVIET - EAST EUROPE FISHING ISSUE

REF: THE HAGUE 6050 (NOTAL)

1. DURING DECEMBER 13-14 EC COUNCIL, MINISTERS WILL TRY TO COME TO GRIPS WITH INTERIM REGIME TO PUT INTO EFFECT JANUARY 1. FOR HANDLING FISHING IN EXTENDED EC ZONE BY THIRD-COUNTRY VESSELS, IN ABSENCE OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. OF THESE, QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO ABOUT SOVIET AND OTHER EAST EUROPEANS IS MOST SENSITIVE. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES LIKELY SCENARIO AS SEEN BY COMMISSION OFFICIALS (GALLAGHER AND HANNAY) ON EVE OF COUNCIL.

2. ASSUMING SOVIETS AND OTHER EE'S MAINTAIN REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE
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WITH EC COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF COMMUNITY, COMMISSION EXPECTS

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COUNCIL TO APPROVE PROPOSAL THAT COUNTRIES WITH WHICH NO
AGREEMENTS EXIST, AND WITH WHOM EC HAS NO SIGNIFICANT RECIPROCAL
FISHING INTEREST (IN ADDITION TO USSR AND EE'S, THIS CATEGORY
ALSO INCLUDES SPAIN, SWEDEN, AND PORTUGAL), WOULD BE ASSIGNED
UNILATERALLY QUOTAS UNDER NEAFC/ICNAF AUSPICES AT LEVEL
REPRESENTING AVERAGE OF LAST 10 YEARS ANNUAL CATCHES FROM THE
ZONES OFF THE COASTAL MEMBER STATE CONCERNED. (FOR PRACTICAL
PURPOSES, THIS MEANS UK, IRELAND AND DENMARK).
THUS THIS WOULD REDUCE SOVIET QUOTA TO ABOUT HALF OR ROUGHLY
700,000 TONS IT REPORTEDLY TOOK LAST YEAR.

3. THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE VALID ONLY FOR 1977.
IF, AT END OF NEXT YEAR, SOVIETS AND OTHERS HAD STILL

REACHED NO AGREEMENT WITH EC, THEY WOULD BE FULLY EXCLUDED
FROM THESE ZONES AS OF 1978.
THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD GIVE SOVIETS AND OTHERS A YEAR TO THINK
ABOUT HOW THEY WANTED TO PLAY THEIR HAND. CHOICE OF 10 YEAR
PERIOD DESIGNED TO AVOID TOO OVERTLY DISCRIMINATORY SYSTEM
(AGAINST RELATIVE NEW-COMER USSR AND IN FAVOR OF LONG-
ESTABLISHED SPAIN, PORTUGAL ET AL), WHICH WOULD ARISE FROM
SELECTING A LONGER PERIOD (E.G., 14 YEARS).

4. UNDER THIS INTERIM SYSTEM, EACH MEMBER STATE
WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING QUOTAS ASSIGNED
AND COULD ENTER INDIVIDUALLY INTO ARRANGEMENTS WITH SOVIETS
AND OTHERS REGARDING PERMITS, ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES ETC.
HOWEVER, NEGOTIATION OF ANY AGREEMENT FOR FUTURE RIGHTS WOULD
HAVE TO BE WITH COMMISSION REPRESENTING EC AS WHOLE.

5. COMMISSION OFFICALS EXPECT SOVIETS TO ACCEPT THIS
ARRANGEMENT ASSUMING THEY WISH TO AVOID SERIOUS CONFRONTATION
AT THIS STAGE. IT PERMITS THEM TO RETAIN AT LEAST A REDUCED
FISHERY (RATHER THEN NONE AT ALL) AND TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH
MEMBER STATES RATHER THAN COMMISSION, AT LEAST FOR ANOTHER
YEAR, DURING WHICH TIME THEY MAY BRING THEMSELVES AROUND
(E.G. , THROUGH EC-CEMA FRAMEWORK) TO POINT WHERE THEY CAN
ACCEPT COMMUNITY COMPETENCE. HOWEVER, GALLAGHER REPORTED THAT
SOVIETS HAVE RECENTLY APPROACHED BRITISH WITH AT LEAST INFORMAL
SUGGESTION THAT USSR WOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE NEGOTIATING ACCEPTABLE
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AGREEMENT WITH UK AND DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY BRITISH MUST
INSIST ON DEALING THROUGH COMMISSION.

6. IN SUM, WAY IS OPEN FOR A TEMPORIZING SOLUTION, OR AT LEAST
POSTPONEMENT, OF THIS POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE ISSUE FOR IMMEDIATE
FUTURE, IF SOVIETS WILLING TO ACCEPT IT. HOWEVER, IT ALSO DEPENDS
ON COUNCIL ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSALS BEFORE IT ON DECEMBER 13,
AT LEAST AS REGARDS "EXTERNAL" ASPECTS OF EC EXTENDED ZONE.

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GALLAGHER AND HANNAY RATE THE CHANCES OF SUCH ACCEPTANCE
AS HIGH, EVEN THOUGH NEITHER EXPECTS AGREEMENT AT NEXT COUNCIL
SESSION ON OTHER (INTERNAL) ASPECTS OF THE PACKAGE. LATTER NOT
LIKELY UNTIL WELL INTO NEXT YEAR, AT EARLIEST.HINTON

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